

sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 1.

6. (Withdrawn): The EER-7 protein of claim 1 having at least 60% sequence identity to human EER-7 protein having an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2.

7. (Withdrawn): A polypeptide fragment of an EER-7 protein, wherein the fragment has a property selected from the group consisting of:

- a) comprising from one to four copies of a SRCR domain having a sequence greater than 80% similar to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos: 3, 4, 5, and 6;
- b) a conserved catalytic domains of lysyl oxidase enzymes having a sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 7;
- c) specific binding activity with an anti-EER-7 antibody; and
- d) any combination thereof.

8. (Previously Presented): An isolated nucleic acid encoding an endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein having an amino acid sequence which has at least about 75% sequence similarity with SEQ ID NO:2, which endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein has (i) lysyl oxidase activity; (ii) comprises four copies of a scavenger receptor cysteine rich domain having a sequence greater than 80% similar to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 3, 4, 5, and 6; and (iii) comprises a conserved catalytic domain of lysyl oxidase enzymes

having a sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 7.

9. (Original): The nucleic acid of claim 8 which is a cDNA.

10. (Previously Presented): The nucleic acid of claim 8, wherein the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein encoded for is a human endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein.

11. (Previously Presented): The nucleic acid of claim 53, wherein the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein encoded for has an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2.

12. (Previously Presented): The nucleic acid of claim 53 which comprises a nucleotide sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 1.

13. (Previously Presented): A vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding a fragment of an endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein operatively associated with an expression control sequence, wherein the fragment is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polypeptide having at least about 75% sequence similarity with SEQ ID NO: 2,
- b) a polypeptide comprising from one to four copies of a scavenger receptor cysteine rich domain, said scavenger receptor cysteine rich domain having a sequence greater than 80% similar to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 3, 4, 5, and 6;

- c) a polypeptide comprising a conserved catalytic domain of lysyl oxidase enzymes having a sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 7; and

- d) any combination thereof.

14. (Previously Presented): The vector according to claim 13, wherein the fragment of an endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein is a full length endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein.

15. (Original): A host cell transfected with the vector of claim 14.

16. (Withdrawn): A non-human animal transformed with the vector of claim 14, wherein the animal expresses an EER-7 protein at a detectable level in response to estrogen.

17. (Previously Presented): A method for producing endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein, which method comprises isolating endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein produced by the host cells of claim 15, wherein the host cells have been cultured under conditions that provide for expression of the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein by the vector.

18. (Currently Amended): An isolated ~~nucleic acid~~ oligonucleotide of no more than 100

nucleotides comprising at least 20 consecutive ~~bases~~ nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1, that ~~hybridize~~ hybridizes under stringent conditions with a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 1, ~~but that do not hybridize under stringent conditions to nucleic acids encoding other lysyl oxidases~~, said stringent conditions including 50% formamide, 4XSSC at 42° C.

19. (Currently Amended): The ~~nucleic acid~~ oligonucleotide of claim 18, wherein at least ~~ten~~ 30 nucleotides are contiguous nucleotides ~~from the nucleic acid sequence as depicted in~~ of SEQ ID NO: 1.

20. (Currently Amended): The ~~nucleic acid~~ oligonucleotide of claim 18 which is detectably labeled.

21. (Withdrawn): An antibody that specifically binds to the EER-7 protein of claim 1.

22. (Withdrawn): A method for detecting an EER-7 protein, which method comprises detecting binding of the antibody of claim 21 to a molecule in a sample suspected of containing an EER-7 protein, wherein the antibody is contacted with the sample under conditions that permit specific binding with any EER-7 protein present in the sample and binding of the antibody to the molecule in the sample indicates the presence of EER-7.

23. (Withdrawn): A method for detecting expression of EER-7, which method comprises detecting mRNA encoding EER-7 in a sample from a cell suspected of expressing EER-7.

24. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 23 wherein mRNA encoding EER-7 is detected by hybridization to an EER-7-specific nucleic acid.

25. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 24 wherein the EER-7-specific nucleic acid is at least 10 nucleotides in length and has a sequence identical to a sequence of the same number of bases in SEQ ID NO: 1, or the complementary sequence thereof.

26. (Withdrawn: Currently Amended): An assay system for identifying selective estrogen receptor ligands, comprising two different populations of transformed cells that express different functional estrogen receptors, wherein one population expresses the ER α estrogen receptor and the other population expresses the ER β estrogen receptor and wherein the number of cells in each population is sufficient to transcribe a detectable amount of mRNA encoding EER-7.

27. (Withdrawn): The assay system of claim 26, wherein the estrogen receptor is a human estrogen receptor.

28. (Withdrawn): The assay system of claim 26 which is an endothelial cell.

29. (Withdrawn): The assay system of claim 28 which is a human umbilical vein cell.

30. (Withdrawn): A method for identifying a compound that selectively regulates EER-7 mRNA transcription through an estrogen receptor, which method comprises detecting a difference in the level of EER-7 mRNA in an assay system comprising transformed cells that express different functional estrogen receptors, wherein the number of cells is sufficient to transcribe a detectable amount of mRNA encoding EER-7 contacted with a test compound, wherein a difference in the level of EER-7 mRNA indicates that the test compound selectively regulates the estrogen receptor.

31. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 30, wherein the test compound is an estrogen or an estrogen analog.

32. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 31, wherein the test compound is an estrogen receptor selective agonist or antagonist.

33. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 30, wherein the level of mRNA decreases when contacted with a test compound that regulates expression through the estrogen receptor.

34. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 30, wherein the level of mRNA increases when contacted with a test compound that regulates expression through the estrogen receptor.
35. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 30, wherein the estrogen receptor is a human estrogen receptor.
36. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 30, wherein the first estrogen receptor is an ER α .
37. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 36, wherein the second estrogen receptor is an ER β .
38. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 30, wherein the cell is an endothelial cell.
39. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 38, wherein the cell is a human umbilical vein cell.
40. (Withdrawn): The polypeptide fragment of claim 7, wherein the four copies of SRCR domains comprise the sequences as depicted in SEQ ID NOS: 3-6.

41. (Withdrawn): The polypeptide fragment of claim 7, having at least 46% sequence similarity to the catalytic domain of lysyl oxidase enzyme having an amino acid sequence as depicted as SEQ ID NO: 7.

42. (Cancel)

43. (Cancel)

44. (Cancel)

45. (Withdrawn): A non-human EER-7 knockout animal, wherein endogenous EER-7 expression is suppressed in the animal.

46. (Withdrawn): A non-human animal transformed with a vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding a protein that regulates EER-7 expression, wherein the protein is operatively associated with an expression control sequence; wherein the animal expresses an EER-7 protein at a detectable level in response to estrogen.

47. (Previously Presented): The nucleic acid of claim 8, wherein the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein encoded for comprises four copies of a scavenger receptor cysteine rich domain having a sequence greater than 85% similar to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 3, 4, 5, and 6.

48. (Previously Presented): The nucleic acid of claim 8, wherein the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein encoded for comprises four copies of a scavenger receptor cysteine rich domain having a sequence greater than 90% similar to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 3, 4, 5, and 6.

49. (Previously Presented): The nucleic acid of claim 8, wherein the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein encoded for comprises four copies of a scavenger receptor cysteine rich domain having a sequence greater than 95% similar to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 3, 4, 5, and 6.

50. (Previously Presented): The nucleic acid of claim 8, wherein the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein encoded for comprises four copies of a scavenger receptor cysteine rich domain having a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 3, 4, 5, and 6.

51. (Previously Presented): The nucleic acid of claim 8, wherein the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein encoded for has an amino acid sequence that has at least about 80% sequence similarity with SEQ ID NO: 2.

52. (Previously Presented): The nucleic acid of claim 8, wherein the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein encoded for has an amino acid sequence that has at least about 85% sequence similarity with SEQ ID NO: 2.

53. (Previously Presented): An isolated nucleic acid encoding an endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein having an amino acid sequence which has at least about 90% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 2.

54. (Previously Presented): The isolated nucleic acid of claim 53, wherein the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein has an amino acid sequence that has at least about 95% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 2.

55. (Previously Presented): The vector of claim 13, wherein the fragment encoded for has specific binding activity with an anti-endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 antibody.